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## IN THE CLAIMS

## CLAIMS

**Preferred amendment.** Please do not amend claims 4-27.

1. (Once amended) A method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, which comprises:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of fluid purification system equipment components from which selection of individual components may be made;

providing access to said database through an interactive interface of an operating system comprising a series of sequential inquiries, response to each of which determines a next inquiry to be posed or a fluid purification system component to be specified, said inquiries eliciting defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system wherein said defining information comprises operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system; and

using said defining information to identify those of said components which, when assembled to form said fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system, can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

2. ~~(cancelled) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising said inquiries eliciting said defining information regarding operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system.~~

3. (Once amended) A method as in Claim 1 ~~2~~ further comprising at least one of said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of fluid type, fluid flow rate, inlet fluid contaminant challenge, outlet fluid purity, duty cycle, life span between service, fluid temperature, fluid pressure, cost and connections to upstream and downstream

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portions of said particular fluid purification system.

**Less preferred amendment.** Please do not amend claims 11-27.

1. (Once amended) A method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, which comprises:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of equipment components from which selection of individual components may be made wherein said database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment;

providing access to said database through an interactive interface of an operating system comprising a series of sequential inquiries, response to each of which determines a next inquiry to be posed or a component to be specified, said inquiries eliciting defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system wherein said defining information comprises operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system; and

using said defining information to identify those of said components which, when assembled to form said fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system, can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

2. ~~(cancelled) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising said inquiries eliciting said defining information regarding operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system.~~

3. (Once amended) A method as in Claim ~~1~~ 2 further comprising at least one of said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of fluid type, fluid flow rate, inlet fluid contaminant challenge, outlet fluid purity, duty cycle, life span between service,

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fluid temperature, fluid pressure, cost and connections to upstream and downstream portions of said particular fluid purification system.

4. ~~(cancelled) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment.~~

5. (Once amended) A method as in Claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein a series of said responses to inquiries through said interface causes said operating system to compile a series of component selections from said plurality of subdatabases, which components will, when assembled, form said fluid purification equipment which can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

6. A method as in Claim 5 further comprising causing said subdatabases to be addressed sequentially, a sequence of addressing being determined at each step in said sequence by said response elicited in an immediately prior step.

7. A method as in Claim 5 wherein compilation of said series of component selections further causes said operating system to generate a subsequent series of inquiries regarding choice of equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system.

8. A method as in Claim 7 wherein said equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system comprises fluid flow, process control and instrumentation equipment.

9. (Once amended) A method as in Claim ~~5~~ 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether a defined component currently is available in the marketplace and if not what

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design and manufacture costs of said defined component would be.

10. (Once amended) A method as in Claim 5 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether combinations of defined components are operationally compatible and presenting a notification thereof.

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**Least preferred amendment.** Please do not amend claims 11-27.

1. (Once amended) A method for identifying fluid purification equipment which is optimized for use in a particular fluid purification system, which comprises:

providing a relational database of specifications regarding a plurality of equipment components from which selection of individual components may be made wherein said database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment;

providing access to said database through an interactive interface of an operating system comprising a series of sequential inquiries said inquiries eliciting defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system, response to each of which determines a next inquiry to be posed or a component to be specified, wherein a series of said responses to inquiries through said interface causes said operating system to compile a series of component selections from said plurality of subdatabases, which components will, when assembled, form said fluid purification equipment which can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system, said inquiries eliciting defining information regarding said particular fluid purification system wherein said defining information comprises operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system ; and

using said defining information to identify those of said components which, when assembled to form said fluid purification equipment in a manner specific to said particular fluid purification system, can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.

2. ~~(cancelled) A method as in Claim 1 further comprising said inquiries eliciting said defining information regarding operating parameters of said particular fluid purification system.~~

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3. (Once amended) A method as in Claim 1 2 further comprising at least one of said operating parameters being selected from the group consisting of fluid type, fluid flow rate, inlet fluid contaminant challenge, outlet fluid purity, duty cycle, life span between service, fluid temperature, fluid pressure, cost and connections to upstream and downstream portions of said particular fluid purification system.

4. ~~(cancelled) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said database comprises a plurality of subdatabases, each subdatabase comprising selection information regarding at least one property of at least one said component of said fluid purification equipment.~~

5. ~~(Cancelled) A method as in Claim 4 wherein a series of said responses to inquiries through said interface causes said operating system to compile a series of component selections from said plurality of subdatabases, which components will, when assembled, form said fluid purification equipment which can be operated so as to optimize fluid purification in said particular fluid purification system.~~

6. A method as in Claim 1 5 further comprising causing said subdatabases to be addressed sequentially, a sequence of addressing being determined at each step in said sequence by said response elicited in an immediately prior step.

7. A method as in Claim 1 5 wherein compilation of said series of component selections further causes said operating system to generate a subsequent series of inquiries regarding choice of equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system.

8. A method as in Claim 7 wherein said equipment ancillary to said fluid purification system comprises fluid flow, process control and instrumentation equipment.

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9. (Once amended) A method as in Claim 1 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether a defined component currently is available in the marketplace and if not what design and manufacture costs of said defined component would be.

10. (Once amended) A method as in Claim 1 4 wherein said selection information of at least one of said subdatabases comprises data for evaluating from said responses whether combinations of defined components are operationally compatible and presenting a notification thereof.

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